

## A Message From Your President, Rex Buckhaults



Hello, MS ACTE members. One of my hopes as a Career and Technical Educator is to instill pride in our students. I believe it is important for students to not only receive a solid education, but to be educated by someone who is aware of and sensitive to their individual needs. I also believe that all students should be given the opportunity to enroll in our career and technical programs, and they should not be forced to choose between academics and career and technical programs. Our students who are enrolled in Career and Technical programs are intelligent, well rounded individuals who are learning much needed skills as they further their education and pursue their careers. I want our students to be proud to be a Career and Technical Student.

***“Let’s put pride back in Career and Technical Education”***

The MS ACTE/MDE Summer Conference will be held July 25 - 27, 2018, at the Jackson Convention Complex, Jackson, Mississippi. Sessions are being planned for all affiliate groups. We will have a very worthwhile conference for all who attend.

I would like to challenge all administrators to encourage their faculty and staff to attend this year’s summer conference and become a member of this great organization.

Let me take a moment to thank you for allowing me to serve as your president and to encourage each member to recruit new members for MS ACTE.

Remember, after all, ***“It’s a sorry dog that won’t bark in its own yard.”*** So let’s tell everybody how Secondary Career and Technical Education is the beginning of Work Force Development, and we are preparing our students for the future.

See you at summer conference.

## Greetings From Your Executive Director

*Submitted by: Linda Bath*

On behalf of Mississippi ACTE, I want to thank all of you for showing your support of career and technical education by being a member of ACTE. I challenge you to encourage co-workers at your school who are not members to join our association.

We are working with the Mississippi Department of Education and the RCU at Mississippi State to bring you a summer conference that will be beneficial to everyone. There will be keynote speakers at the luncheons, vendors, and informative breakout sessions dedicated to your affiliates. Officers from Region IV and the national ACTE office will also be in attendance.

Your district presidents will be hosting the spring dinner meetings. The dates and locations will be posted on our website when they are scheduled. If you have suggestions for topics or guest speakers, please contact your district president. Their names and contact information can be found on our website at the Leadership page. Please make every effort to attend these meetings.

If I can be of assistance to you, please contact me at edofmsacte@aol.com or phone me at 601.857.5763. I hope to see you at the district dinner meetings and the summer conference!

## Once Again... MS ACTE Brings Home the Award

For the eleventh year in a row, MS ACTE has been recognized as a Quality Association Standards recipient. This is the highest honor the association can achieve.

The award was presented at the State Association Awards Breakfast in Nashville at the VISION Conference. Twenty-six states were presented this award. Ribbons were given to the members attending the conference to indicate that they were a member of a QAS state.



# Students Get Cooking In State Culinary Competition

By Buster Wolfe • Hub City Spokes–The Hattiesburg Post/The Lamar Times/The Petal News

Submitted by: Rhonda Brewer

The Oak Grove High School culinary team will be among the first students in the state to participate in the first-ever Junior Chef competition sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Education's Office of Child Nutrition.

In fact, Oak Grove will be hosting the Central Mississippi "Savor the Flavor of Mississippi" competition on Oct. 23-24 featuring seven of the state's participating 17 schools, with awards of scholarships up to \$16,000 for each team member. State winners who qualify to go to regional competition can earn full tuition and fees for each student – valued at \$45,000-55,000 – to Sullivan University in Louisville, Kentucky.

Oak Grove culinary teacher Debbie Miller said the reason for the low turnout in the state is because the deadline for submission was early in the school year.

"This is something new to Mississippi," she said. "Not everybody is participating because the turnaround is so quick. We had to send the recipes into MDE Office of Child Nutrition. We also had to have the nutritional analysis for each item, so that it fits into those guidelines. We've done that; our food service director has software that they can just plug it in. She was able to get that for us."

Miller said the short turnaround hindered the team's preparations.

"The turnaround was so quick that we didn't get a chance to practice, practice, practice as we like to," she said. "We will do that after we get back from fall break several times because I want the kids to be confident in what they are doing."

Oak Grove is fortunate to be the host for one of the three state regions. On Oct. 23, the Hattiesburg team of "Tiger IncrEDIBLES," the Rankin County "Incredible Bulldogs" and the Wayne County "Wayne County Squared (WC2)" will compete from 10 a.m.-noon.

On Oct. 24, Hinds Community College-Vicksburg-Warren will have two teams competing from 9:30-11:30 a.m., followed by Oak Grove's "Taco-bout It" team and McComb's "Splash of Spice" from 1-3 p.m.

The competition will have at least two teams competing at the same times.

"I think there will be staggered starts so the judges can critique them on safety and sanitation so they are not trying to watch two teams at the same time," Miller said. "They may appoint somebody as just safety and sanitation, somebody who is doing knife skills and somebody who is doing temp (temperature) because they have to temp everything. We had to turn in a plan that every step we do has to be mapped out."

Because the competition is Mississippi-based, teams must use at least two Mississippi products. The Oak Grove team chose catfish, Miller said.

"We think it represents Mississippi well," she said. "Students also have to eat this; if we win, it will go on every school cafeteria's menu. So we experimented with catfish, we did a penne pasta with catfish, we did a blackened catfish and we did a Jamaican jerk catfish. If it wasn't fried, the kids overwhelmingly didn't care for it that much. So we went back to the drawing board."

A rubric defines the guidelines for each team.

"We've got to have two Mississippi products," Miller said. "The more we have up to five, we get three bonus points. So we've got that. You also have to use a spice blend that is used in the cafeterias, a Mississippi spice blend. But we took that spice blend and we added additional spices to make our own seasoning. I don't know if anybody else is doing that, if they are using

straight from those. We are using them as a base. They have Southwest, Italian and Creole seasonings; we are using the Southwest and we are incorporating nutmeg, allspice, cinnamon, salt, onion flakes and chives. We are doing a Jamaican Jerk Taco. We've even let some adults try it and they like it."

Miller said the team – which is composed of Michael Clark, Brinkley Davis, Joana Martinez, Donovan Reid and alternate Daniela Lopez – has been working on their individual assignments.

"I've got a little Hispanic girl that is making fresh tortillas," she said. "I have a young man who is cooking the chicken. I have a young lady who is making the slaw. And one person is making the seasoning and the salsa. If the judges' palates are like students – and of course, we are using all fresh ingredients – I think we've got a pretty shot. I have no idea what other people are doing."

The other honor that goes to the winning team in the state is that the top recipe will be reproduced in each of the state's school lunch menus. So the availability of ingredients in the cafeteria is mandatory.

"We had to use a commodity from the cafeteria," Miller said. "We're using cheese and the chicken is also one of their commodities. They have to reproduce it. They can mass produce, they can order the tortillas in mass volume and the salsa is also a commodity item."

State winners receive \$16,000 in scholarship money for each first-place team member, followed by \$12,000 for second place and \$8,000 for third place. In the regional competition, besides the free tuition and fees for the top team, second-place finishers will receive \$47,000 each, while third place wins \$20,000 each.



## Kosciusko-Attala Career Tech Students Take CRC Test for Employment

*Submitted by: Tracy Burnley*

Kosciusko-Attala Career Tech second year students from the welding, automotive, construction, health science, and teacher academy programs recently took the Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) test at Holmes Community College through a grant from the Kosciusko-Attala Development Authority. The CRC is a certificate that confirms to employers that a potential employee has the basic workplace abilities that all 21st century jobs require. It measures real world skills that are critical in the workplace. The areas tested are reading for information, applied mathematics, and locating information. We are so thankful that KADC gave this opportunity to our students!



## DECA Students Attend the New York Experience

*Submitted by: Kathy Dawkins*

Twelve Millsaps Career and Technology Center Marketing/Business students attended the DECA New York Experience November 29 through December 03, 2017. While in New York, the students participated in a fashion workshop at Macy's, a tour/workshop of the Financial District, a tour/workshop of the Fashion District/SOHO, a tour/workshop of Madison Square Garden, the Empire State Building tour, the Statue of Liberty tour, the 911 museum and reflection pool, and attended The Rockettes Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall. The group enjoyed four packed days, some beautiful weather, some wonderful food and were allowed to experience many of the things the marketing/business curricula cover in their classes. Group members are from L to R: Kathy Dawkins, DECA Advisor/Marketing & Business Instructor; Caroline Dewberry; Jordan Norman; Hannah Jian; Laura Beth Taylor; Carter Campbell; Ariyana Nichols; Kayleigh Thomas; Ashtyn Young; Dr. Lenora Hogan, MCTC Director; Abigail Brazzeal; Chanterrian Chandler; William Neeley; and Jonathan Peterson.



## Students Repair and Donate Used Bikes

*Submitted by: Cardenas, Aprillee*

Tupelo Career-Technical Center's Collision Repair class and instructor, Derek Bradley, are giving back to the community this Christmas season. In the fall, Mr. Bradley and students collected gently used bikes from the surrounding area to repaint and repair these bikes to give away at Christmas. Yesterday, 30 bicycles were ready for pick-up. Mr. Bradley's students were present to place tags on bikes that will be picked up later in the week and Mr. Bradley is even volunteering his time to deliver bikes if needed. He hopes to have 10 more bikes ready for pick-up this Friday!



# Local Students Earn Statewide Honors in MCEF Video Contest

*Competition encourages greater understanding of career and technical fields*

*Submitted by: Jennifer Koon*

Members of the Alcorn Career and Technology Center are first place winners in the statewide #MCEFWorks video contest.

Sponsored by the Mississippi Construction Education Foundation, the competition invited Mississippi students in grades 7-12 to make short videos highlighting the many ways that construction and manufacturing education programs are helping students achieve their dreams.

Instructor Steve Shaw discovered the contest online and approached photographer Duke Peebles and editor Tyler Phelps about entering. The winning video features interviews with craft students Justin Simmons and Jordan Chadwell.

Peebles and Phelps employed a creative blend of graphics and work demonstrations to show how success is being redefined for more than 5,000 career and technical education students throughout Mississippi.

For their impressive work, they are being awarded cash prizes and a set of sporty new #MCEFWorks T-shirts.

"Participants were encouraged to be creative and communicate a clear, cohesive and memorable message about how career and technical education programs are preparing Mississippi students for successful futures," said Mike Barkett, MCEF president. "The students at Alcorn Construction and Technology Center did an excellent job of telling our story in a fresh and engaging way."

In addition to impressing a panel of industry judges, team members finished high in a public voting campaign. The process brought together students in a social media initiative that spotlighted the class video while raising awareness of how MCEF is helping build Mississippi's workforce of the future.

"Making the video was truly a team effort, and we thank MCEF for allowing us to share the many positive ways that our students are preparing for the future," said Shaw. "It is our hope that our entry will inspire younger students to pursue opportunities through career and technical education."

Counselor Jennifer Koon agreed.

"We chose two outstanding students to tell our story," she said. "Both are active in our center's dual credit program, and it's easy to see their excitement about learning skills they will use for years to come."

Pointing out Mississippi's need for more than 80,000 craft professionals by 2019 to support the state's growing construction industry, Barkett said his team is working to ensure those jobs are filled by qualified Mississippians who have graduated from one of the state's accredited career and technical education programs.

"MCEF offers world-class training programs that give students a solid foundation for the future," Barkett said. "Many high school graduates go on to earn degrees, start businesses and contribute to the growth and prosperity of our state. We congratulate Alcorn Career and Technology Center and their fellow students from around the state for celebrating the many success stories made possible by career and technical education programs in Mississippi."

The mission of the non-profit MCEF is to promote careers, recruit capable individuals and train a quality workforce for the construction and manufacturing industries in the state of Mississippi. MCEF also offers workforce training and credentialing in construction, industrial maintenance and manufacturing trades.

To view the Alcorn video, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XE-ofjGkZIs>. Learn more about MCEF at <http://mcef.net>.



*L-R Lane Bell, MCEF Representative, Duke Peebles and Tyler Phelps, Alcorn Career and Technology Center Digital Media students, and Steve Shaw, ACTC Digital Media Instructor.*



## Petal High School's Teacher Academy Program Helps with African Library Project

*Submitted by: Wayne Pittman*

This fall, Petal High School's Teacher Academy program worked with Ms. Sue Sorensen, the school's librarian to collect and donate over 1000 books to the Isibania Secondary School in Kenya, a boarding school for 650 boys. In addition, over 200 books were sent to support a school in Tennessee that was also collecting books for their African Library Project.

Teacher Academy students created a bulletin board for one of the school's main hallways to draw attention to the project. They helped in the library before school, selling jean's passes to raise money to cover the cost of packing and shipping the books. Students also worked with the librarian to pack the almost 30 boxes of books to be shipped.

"At Petal High School, we're all about paying it forward. When a tornado destroyed much of our city and one of our schools last year, we were touched by individuals across the nation who reached out to help us get back on our feet. Now we wanted to help others, in our nation and the world. Petal High School is a small school in a small town, but our hearts are big. We can't wait to share our love of learning and of reading with students in Kenya!" said Deidra Gammill, the instructor for the Teacher Academy program.

To learn more about the African Library Project and how your school can help, visit [www.africanlibraryproject.org](http://www.africanlibraryproject.org).



## Millsaps CTC DECA Members Place at District Competition

*Submitted by: Kathy Dawkins*

On Tuesday, January 10, 2018, Mrs. Kathy Dawkins took 15 students to Tupelo, MS for the Annual DECA District III Competition at the ICC Belden Campus. The following students placed in their respective events and will advance to the State DECA Competition in February:

Ariyana Nichols, 6th place Sports & Entertainment Marketing Team; Abigail Brazzeal, 5th place Apparel & Accessories Marketing; Hannah Jian, 2nd Place Principles of Marketing; William Neeley, 1st Place Principles of Hospitality & Tourism; Paige Lemm, 2nd place Marketing Communications; Tanner Graves, 5th place Sports & Entertainment Individual; Ashtyn Young, 1st place Principles of Business Management & Administration; Logan Barnes, 6th place Sports & Entertainment Marketing Team; Soul Park, 1st place Marketing Communications; Sarah Heard, 1st place Accounting Applications; Carter Campbell, 1st place Principles of Finance; Mary Beth Woodward, 1st place Principles of Marketing; Chanterrian Chandler, 3rd place Entrepreneurship Team; Chelsea Rice, 3rd place Entrepreneurship Team; Vermecia Hemphill, 3rd place Principles of Hospitality & Tourism.



## Students Design, Build and Raffle Playhouse

*Submitted by: Melissa Graham*

The Architecture & Drafting program at Forrest County AHS is taught by Cherish McGee. Mrs. McGee is also the advisor for SKILLS USA, which is the student organization that is linked to her program. Every year, student organization advisors are tasked with organizing fundraisers to pay expenses for students to participate in regional, state and national competitions related to the CTE program they are taking in high school. These competitions help prepare students for post-secondary education as well as the workforce. Since Mrs. McGee teaches Architecture and Drafting, she decided to have her students submit designs for a small playhouse

to be built and raffled off to raise money for SKILLS USA. The designs were reviewed and narrowed down to the top two. After that, faculty and staff voted for their top choice and that was the design used to construct

the playhouse. Mrs. McGee had her students build the playhouse so they could have hands on experience in selecting building materials, using a plan/design and constructing a structure.



## Lamar County Students Compete in HOSA

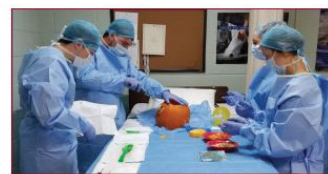
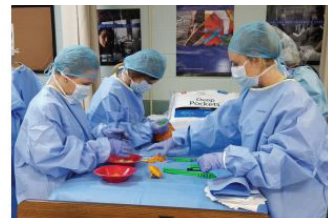
*Submitted by: Rhonda Brewer*

Health Science Students from Lamar County Center for Technical Education attended the district HOSA – Future Health Professionals event in Laurel on January 20, 2018 and competed in several events. In the Sports Medicine event, Cayley Bennett (Purvis High School) received Second Place and Gracie Classen (Sumrall High School) received Third Place. Ashlynn Howard ((Sumrall High School) placed Fifth in Home Health Aide and Raven Marshall (Oak Grove High School) received Fourth Place in Nutrition. Health Science is a two-year program at Lamar County Center for Technical Education in Purvis which provides technical and career classes for students from Lumberton High School, Oak Grove High School, Purvis High School, and Sumrall High School.



## Health Science Students Experience Hands-On Training

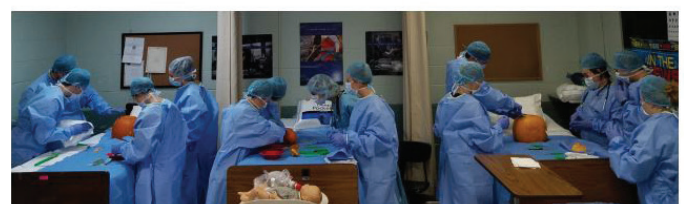
*Submitted by: Marlene Cole*



Pumpkin-ectomies are a fun project the students of the Health Science classes do around Halloween.

The students were able to explore all the careers in surgery. They performed all the jobs for a surgery including admit and discharge nurse, anesthesiologist, surgeon, surgical tech, surgical nurse, and housekeeping.

While having fun carving a pumpkin, the students were able to experience each job on a lower level.





## Educators Rising State Competition in Natchez

*Submitted by: Rex Buckhaults*

Teacher Academy students from Wayne County Career-Technical Center presented well at the Educators Rising state competition earlier this month. More than thirty schools from across the state came to the event in Natchez, MS, to compete. Twenty-one competitive events were designed to develop and showcase the future teachers' teaching skills. Mrs. Tonda Farrior carried six students to the competitive event, and her students brought home three first-place and two second place awards. These students will now have the opportunity to travel to Orlando, FL to compete at the national level.

The winners were: Madison McIlwain, 1st place Lesson Planning & Delivery – Visual Arts; Jada Clark, 1st place Lesson Planning & Delivery – Humanities (Social Studies); Mauranesha McGay, 1st place Lesson Planning & Delivery – CTE (Business Design Technology); Gentrey Jordan, 2nd place Lesson Planning & Delivery – Humanities (Language Arts); and Shania Hundley, 2nd place Lesson Planning & Delivery – STEM (Science).

Pictured are the students who competed: (from left to right) Mauranesha McGay, Jada Clark, Madison McIlwain, KeAmbryae Gray, Gentrey Jordan, and Shania Hundley.



## Caterpillar Equipment Provides Students Employable Skills

*Submitted by: Rex Buckhaults*

On behalf of the Wayne County Career-Technical Center, Rex Buckhaults, WCCTC Director, along with Heavy Equipment Operations instructor, Corey Stevens, would like to thank the Wayne County Superintendent of Education, Bobby Jones, and the Wayne County School District Board of Education for believing in and supporting the Heavy Equipment Operations program.

Our recent purchase of a Caterpillar mini-excavator and the most recent purchase of a Caterpillar D-3 dozer allow us to better prepare our students who complete the two year HEO program with the necessary skills to enter the workforce upon graduating high school or continue their education in the field of Heavy Equipment Operations. Mr. Buckhaults and Mr. Stevens would also like to thank Mr. Kenny Miller, Caterpillar Machine Sales Representative, along with everyone who worked with Puckett Equipment in Jackson and assisted with the acquisition of this equipment.

The Heavy Equipment program is currently in its fourth year of operation, beginning with only nine students and increasing yearly to as many as 17 students. Because this program is the only one in the state, Mr. Stevens, worked with the Mississippi Department of Education, the Research and Curriculum Unit at Mississippi State University, and Mississippi Construction Education Foundation in writing the curriculum for this program.

As we continue looking into the job market in our area, we feel that the Heavy Equipment Operations program will be an asset to our community and with continued support from our school board and state affiliates, this program will continue to grow in the years to come.



## Automotive Program Becomes NATEF Certified

*Submitted by: Tracy Burnley*

The Automotive Service Technology program at the Kosciusko-Attala Career Tech has become NATEF certified. This certification ensures that the automotive service program has a training program that is aligned to meet today's "real world" needs. To become certified, the automotive service program was evaluated on the highest instructional standards set by National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). Students that complete the two year program will have the knowledge to become a highly skilled, entry level technicians. Pictured are Mr. Tony Holder-CTC Director, Ethan Hodges-Automotive Service student, Greyson Bell-Automotive Service student, and Mr. Gerald Simmons-Automotive Service Instructor.

